

Item _____

Prepared by: Commissioner Carpenter

Approved by _____

Resolution requesting the Shelby County Delegation and Tennessee General Assembly support House Bill 1212 & Senate Bill 1094 requiring the County Commission is a county with more than one division of General Sessions Court to designate one division as a Domestic Violence Division. Sponsored by Commissioner Mike Carpenter.

WHEREAS, domestic crime has reached epidemic proportions in Shelby County with a doubling of domestic homicides within the last year and more than 20,000 complaints of domestic abuse annually; and

WHEREAS, the County's anti-crime initiative Operation: Safe Community calls for aggressive efforts to address domestic crime including the creation of a domestic violence court; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission in filling a vacancy created by the untimely death of Judge Anthony Johnson requested candidates state their willingness to hear a domestic violence only docket; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission appointed Lee Wilson, who committed his willingness to hear a domestic violence only docket and to request that the general sessions judges allow him to hear such a docket; and

WHEREAS, The District Attorney General, Shelby County Sheriff and Memphis City Police Director have all indicated their support for a domestic violence only docket or domestic violence court; and

WHEREAS, To date, there has been no movement by the general sessions court judges to initiate a domestic-violence only docket; and

WHEREAS, A 2007 analysis by the National Center for State Courts identifies at least 150 domestic violence courts or dockets nationwide and concludes that most have been successful at improving victim safety and offender accountability; and

WHEREAS, Representative Jim Coley and Senator Paul Stanley have introduced legislation (HB 1212/SB 1094) to require Counties with more than one division of general sessions court to designate one as a domestic violence court; and

WHEREAS, HB 1212/SB 1094 allows counties to use existing resources to establish this court and requires no additional expenditures; and

WHEREAS, advocates for victims of domestic crime have indicated that existing resources, while not optimal, could be utilized to establish a domestic violence court;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, That the Shelby County Delegation and Tennessee General Assembly are requested to support House Bill 1212 and Senate Bill 1094 to allow Shelby County to create a domestic violence court

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Shelby County Legislative Delegation and members of the Tennessee General Assembly be made aware of this request by copy of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately, the public welfare requiring the same.

A C Wharton, Mayor

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Clerk of County Commission

ADOPTED: _____